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North Carolina Jury Getting Case Against Klan Paramilitary Group

By DUDLEY CLENDINEN

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RALEIGH, N.C., July 23 — After four days laced with the sounds of Bible readings and recorded gunfire, racial rantings and calm reassurances, a Federal jury will begin deciding Friday morning whether a Klan group here has been building a secret army dedicated to civil rebellion.

The strict legal question is whether leaders of the White Patriot Party have defied an injunction issued by Judge W. Earl Britt last year prohibiting them from operating a paramilitary organization in violation of state law.

The prosecution, amid an evidentiary parade of guns, hand grenades and missile launchers, has painted a portrait of a group of anti-Semitic racists who were shaped by the Christian Identity movement, joined by active-duty soldiers and marines, and equipped with heavy weapons stolen from Fort Bragg with the help of an Army intelligence officer and a Special Forces supply sergeant.

'Our Militia Is Defensive'

One part of the defense has portrayed the organization as a group of white supremacists who simply liked to dress in combat fatigues and gather for target practice and parades.

"Our militia is totally defensive," F. Glenn Miller Jr., a retired Army Special Forces sergeant who is the founder of the group, said when his court-appointed public defender, William E. Martin, questioned him Wednesday. "We're not out to violate anybody's civil rights."

The other defendant, the group's second in command, Stephen S. Miller, who is no relation to Glenn Miller, chose to act as his own attorney. He has sometimes seemed more interested in proving the scriptural basis for the group's racist ideology. "In the Identity theology, the Jews are referred to as 'the children of Satan,' is that not correct?" he asked in questioning an agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Donald R. Wofford.

Mr. Wofford was testifying as an expert on the Order, a Christian Identity group in the Northwest whose members have been tied to a series of bank robberies and to the murder of a Denver talk show host, Alan Berg. Ten of its members were convicted of conspiracy and racketeering in a Federal District Court in Seattle and sentenced to long prison terms in February.

"What I'm trying to establish is that the Identity movement is based on the Bible," Stephen Miller told Mr. Wofford.

Mr. Wofford replied, "That's correct — their interpretation of the Bible."

The prosecution had sought to show that the White Patriots Party was evolving into a group of radical Christian militants like the Order and that, like the Order, its members relied for their rationale on the Bible and a novel, "The Turner Diaries."

The novel is a violent tale of a right-wing insurrection that succeeds in 1992, the year that Glenn Miller has said his party will take power and establish a white "Southland."

Mr. Miller admitted passing out copies of the novel to his members at rallies and to placing the slogan "We Love the Order" in the his party publication, "The Confederate Leader." He said he once met Robert J. Mathews, the former leader of the Order. Mr. Mathews was killed in 1984 in a fire ignited by an illumination flare after a siege by law-enforcement officers of the house in which he was hiding.

But under questioning by Morris S. Dees, director of the Southern Poverty Law Center, Mr. Miller denied emulating the Order or being a member of it. Mr. Dees, along with United States Attorney Samuel T. Currin, is attempting to prove that the Millers are guilty of criminal contempt of court by violating Judge Britt's injunction.

Organization's Name Changed

The injunction grew out of a consent agreement that Glenn Miller signed that month in settlement of a civil case brought by the law center. The law center brought the action against the Carolina Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, the original name of Mr. Miller's organization. The lawsuit asked the court to end the Klansmen's harassment of a black man, Bobby Person, and others. The court ordered those acts, and the paramilitary training in violation of state law, to cease.

Mr. Miller then changed the name of his organization to the White Patriot Party. James E. Holder, a former member now serving an 18-year prison sentence for the second-degree murder of another member of the group in November 1983, testified that active-duty marines from Camp Lejeune, N.C., and active-duty soldiers from Fort Bragg, N.C., had taken part in the group's paramilitary training.

One of those marines, Richard L. Pounder, testified that he was discharged in April when he chose to keep his membership in the group.

And Robert Norton Jones, a former marine who is now serving a four-year Federal prison term for the attempted purchase of explosives and other stolen military arms, told the court that he had been paid \$50,000 to supply members of the White Patriot Party with

arms and munitions stolen from Fort Bragg and other military installations.

The munitions included plastic explosives and rockets, Mr. Jones said. He said that Glenn Miller had authorized the payments for them, that he had delivered the munitions and trained groups of Klansmen in their use right up to his arrest, six months after the court order.

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